

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4-5 and 7 as follows.

Please add new claims 28-36.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, ~~for establishing sessions in a network, the method comprising:~~

~~receiving a session-establishing policy request message at a first network-control node storing subscriber specific information which comprise policy information required for the session to be established;~~

~~processing the policy request message to generate a policy decision message in the first network node;~~

~~forwarding a policy request message from the first network-control node to at least one second each network node of a plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information which comprise policy information required for the a session to be established;~~

~~processing the policy request message to generate a policy decision message in the at least one second network node and sending the policy decision message to the first network-control node from each of the at least one second network nodes node having received the policy request message;~~

~~generating a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages in the first network-control node;~~ and

~~sending the single policy decision message to the user entity.~~

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, further comprising selecting the ~~network control element being a~~ first network node storing subscriber specific information by ~~a~~ the network connection serving element ~~(GGSN)~~ serving ~~the~~ a user entity.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein ~~in the selecting, a~~ the first node is a default network node storing subscriber specific information ~~is selected~~.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the single policy decision message comprises an authorization token from each node storing subscriber specific information.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a user entity is located in a visited operator domain, and the method further comprising:

inserting policy information into a session set-up protocol message;

sending the session set-up protocol message to a network control element in the home domain of the user entity;

forwarding the policy information to a home subscriber database node;

extracting an address of a home node storing subscriber specific information of the user entity from the subscriber database node₅₁;

creating home policy information based on the extracted address₅₁ and

forwarding the home policy information to a network control element of the visited network.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the policy information comprises an authentication token, and the home policy information created in the creating step comprises a home authentication token.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

creating a visited policy information in the network control element of the visited network.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein in the forwarding, the home policy information is inserted into another session set-up protocol message.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the session set-up protocol is a session initiation protocol (SIP).

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the network node storing subscriber specific information is a policy control function (PDF).

13-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a memory configured to store subscriber specific information comprising policy information required for a session to be established;

a receiver configured to receive a session establishing policy request message;

a processor configured to process the policy request message and to generate a policy decision;

wherein the receiver is further configured to send a policy request message and to receive a policy decision message in response to the sent policy request message; and

a generator configured to generate a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages and the policy decision generated by processor, and to send the single policy decision message.

29. (New) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the receiver is configured to send the policy request message to at least one network node storing subscriber specific information which comprise policy information required for the session to be established, and to receive the policy decision message from this at least one network node.

30. (New) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the single policy decision message comprises an authorization token from each node storing subscriber specific information.

31. (New) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the network node storing subscriber specific information is a policy control function.

32. (New) A method, comprising:

- receiving a policy request message at a first network node storing subscriber specific information comprising policy information required for a session to be established;
- processing the policy request message to generate a policy decision message in the first network node;
- sending a policy request message receiving a policy decision message in response to the sent policy request message; and
- generating a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages and the generated policy decision.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein in sending the policy request message, at least one policy request message is sent to at least one second network node storing subscriber specific information which comprise policy information

required for the session to be established, and in the receiving, the policy decision message is received from the at least one network node.

34. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the single policy decision message comprises an authorization token from each node storing subscriber specific information.

35. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the network node storing subscriber specific information is a policy control function.

36. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

- storing means for storing subscriber specific information comprising policy information required for a session to be established;
- receiving means for receiving a policy request message;
- processing means for processing the policy request message and to generate a policy decision;
- sending means for sending the policy request message;
- receiving means for receiving a policy decision message in response to the sent policy request message;
- generating means for generating a single policy decision message based on the received policy decision messages and the policy decision generated by processor; and
- sending means for sending the single policy decision message.